

served as Speaker of the House in the State legislature. As a former State legislator myself, I saw firsthand the legacy that he left behind in terms of a civil but progressive agenda that he advanced in the State of Connecticut, which, as a Member of Congress for three terms, he continued that work, again, particularly focusing on the emerging issues of the aging in our country, which as a demographic is growing. He was really just someone with great vision in terms of the need to make sure that we had a society that was prepared to deal with those issues.

Mr. Speaker, as we grapple with the challenge of civil discourse in our democracy, Bill Ratchford, in my opinion, is the perfect, almost iconic example of what a legislator and a public servant ought to be. He cared deeply about the issues that he campaigned and advocated for, but he also was someone who studiously respected his opposition and believed passionately in civil discourse and debate. Again, I think that legacy, probably above all, is the most powerful one that he leaves behind us; and, frankly, we would all do well to follow his outstanding example.

TIME FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES) for 2 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, early reports indicate that President Obama will call for a new spending package during his State of the Union address tonight. Now, I have heard, as many of you have, that this might be masked, as he might say tonight, as targeted investments. More stimulus. Democrats speak for stimulus, but it will be hidden with calls for tepid spending cuts.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Americans know that our debt is \$14 trillion. They know that the President spent \$1.3 trillion over the budget last year, only to see unemployment stay above 9 percent. Now is the time to pivot to fiscal responsibility. It's time to shred the President's maxed-out credit cards and cut his weekly allowance. It's time to tell our kids and grandkids that we don't want them to bear the burden of our generation's fiscal irresponsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with my constituents in north Georgia, hope that the early reports are wrong about another stimulus being proposed tonight. Rather than use a few spending cuts as window dressing for more spending, tonight is the President's opportunity to seize the moment, to be a leader, and get serious about spending reform.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM RATCHFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise, as did other Members of the Connecticut delegation, to pay tribute to a great man who served the State of Connecticut and his community of Danbury in a variety of ways, Bill Ratchford.

Bill Ratchford passed away recently, and the entire State of Connecticut is mourning; but, in particular, my district is mourning. Though Connecticut's districts have been reconfigured over the years, we both share a love and affinity for Bill Ratchford's hometown of Danbury that he represented in the United States Congress and I have the great fortune of representing.

Bill grew up in Danbury. He was a child of the Depression. His father worked in one of the great hat factories in Danbury, Connecticut. His mother was a school teacher. And they instilled in Bill the value of what truly matters in life: a good education, a love for his family, and a love for his country.

Shortly after I was sworn into office, Bill came to see me, to share with me some of his thoughts about what was important about being in this place.

□ 1010

Though he cared so passionately about issues, as Representative COURTNEY and Representative DELAURO mentioned, his passion especially for issues related to aging, the fact that he became, later on, the State's first commissioner on aging, what he cared maybe most about was the discourse in this place. Bill was a gentleman first, second, and third. He represented everything that people wanted government to be.

That's what we talked about when he came into my office that day, how you needed to fight for what you cared about in this place but do it in a respectful way. And I join with Representative COURTNEY in reminding everyone here that there are certain giants of this place that we can look to in trying to reorder the way in which we have conversations, and Bill Ratchford certainly was at the top of that list.

His commitment to public service built a legacy that in Danbury and throughout Connecticut we will remember for a long time. He will be terribly missed. My thoughts and prayers and those of everyone in the Danbury area are with Barbara and his family at this time.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank Congressman MURPHY for yielding, and I want to join him in the remarks that he has made.

I had the opportunity to attend a memorial service and speak at a memorial service for my friend, Bill Ratchford.

Bill and I first met in the early 1970s. Bill had been speaker of the Connecticut House and was serving as president of the National Conference of State Legislatures. I was about to be president of the Maryland Senate, and

another former Member, Martin Sabo, was the speaker of the Minnesota House. The three of us became very good friends.

Later in the week, the next week, we lost an extraordinary American, Sarge Shriver. I had the opportunity to speak at his wake last Friday night.

The reason I mentioned Sarge Shriver, Bill Ratchford and Sarge Shriver were both extraordinary public servants who believed that service to others was their most important role in life in terms of their public service. Now, privately, they were both also representatives of extraordinary family leaders, revered by their families. And his sons, Bill Ratchford's sons, and Sarge's sons spoke at their memorial services. Shaun, Scott, and Brian spoke movingly of a father who was fully engaged and adored by his sons. Of course his wife, Barbara, a very close friend of mine for some 40 years, as was Bill, was revered as a mother.

So these two families, two extraordinary leaders that we have lost recently, represented the best in America.

Bill Ratchford was my friend. Bill Ratchford brought honor on this institution by his service. Bill and I had the opportunity to serve on the Appropriations Committee together, which was arguably, at that point in time, the most bipartisan committee in the Congress of the United States. I am not sure that's still true, but it certainly was then. Bill Ratchford was respected on both sides of the aisle for his decency, his intellect, and his commitment to making America a better country.

I am pleased to join my friend CHRIS MURPHY, who has been such a giant himself at a young age, but at an age when Bill Ratchford was becoming a major leader in their country.

I thank Bill Ratchford and his family for what they have contributed to this country. We lament his loss, but we celebrate his life, which was an extraordinary life well lived and a blessing to all who knew him and to his country.

STATE OF OUR UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for 2 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

This evening, we will hear from the President of the United States in his State of the Union address, and it is a privilege for the people of our country to be able to hear from our President what his remarks are about the State of our Union.

We look forward to hearing, Mr. Speaker, what the President's plan will be going forward to lift our country out of the high unemployment rates that we have been dealing with during these last 20 months. To have the unemployment rate in excess of 9 percent

and, in some cases, over 10 percent has been unacceptable. It's been a hardship for so many people in the Nation.

Also, I am looking forward to finding out what the President's pro-job growth agenda will be going forward. We want to get unemployment rates back to much lower levels so that families and businesses can thrive again.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I am looking to find out what will be the specific cuts that the President will be proposing. We haven't heard specific cuts so far. In fact, we have heard that the President may be referring to investments, meaning more spending yet again, spending that this country simply cannot afford because, as we know, Mr. Speaker, we are falling off the cliff in terms of debt increases. That is not good for the next generation of Americans.

Second, I am wondering what specific pieces of legislation that the President has proposed would he be willing to repeal. We know, for instance, that the cap-and-trade proposal that's working through the EPA will be one that will be a job killer. We know that for the health care law as well, that it is, in fact, a job killer.

Finally, I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, what areas of regulations the President would be willing to do away with. The President had made a statement last week that he wants to direct all of the agencies to look for regulations that would kill jobs. Well, we know that the EPA regulations will, in fact, do that, and we are wondering if, perhaps, the President would be willing to put those on the table and delay implementation of the cap-and-trade system through the EPA.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we also know that with Americans paying in excess of \$3 a gallon for gasoline that it may be wise now to look at American energy production. What would those proposals be from the President? We look forward to hearing that this evening.

MAKE SERIOUS INVESTMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President of the United States will deliver the State of the Union address, as we all know. If the reports are accurate, what he will talk about today is the need to make serious investments in this country's future.

Now, we have just heard from a colleague from the other side of the aisle, and we have heard from many Republicans over the last few days, concerning the issue of spending and whether or not we need to be spending any more money in this time of admittedly dire financial circumstances.

You know, most families, when they borrow money, they do it for two reasons: either for survival—they need to eat; they need to feed their children;

they may need a house for their family; they need to clothe them—or they borrow because they see an opportunity to invest and to make their lives better down the road.

Now, I know that many people don't think of government spending as investment. But if we look back not too long, just over recent history, the last few decades, we have seen numerous instances in which government investment has not only created jobs, it has spawned entirely new industries.

As a matter of fact, even though people made fun of Al Gore many years ago, the fact is that government investment actually created the Internet. Government investment, through the Defense Department and other research institutions, has created literally billions and billions of dollars in private sector growth and created thousands and thousands and thousands of new jobs.

We face a very difficult choice right now. We can sit back while the rest of the world advances, or we can make the tough choices right now to make serious and important investments that will not just create new industries but may, in fact, solve some of our most intractable problems. I am talking here about medical research, for one.

We now invest \$6 billion a year in cancer research. Cancer treatment and the cost to society because of cancer amounts to literally hundreds of billions of dollars each year. It costs Medicare. It costs Medicaid. It costs the private system. If we spent \$20 billion a year on medical research for cancer and over 10 years finally cured it, made it manageable in an inexpensive way, the long-term payback to this country would be enormous.

One of the problems with analyzing our health care reform proposal, now in the law the Affordable Health Care Act, is that we weren't able to factor in the long-term benefits of preventive care, research, more efficient operations, because they are not quantifiable.

□ 1020

But we know that if we could just deal with two major diseases, diabetes and cancer, then we would probably solve our long-term health care financial issues. So tonight the President will lay out choices for us. And I think this is a very, very important aspect of our public dialogue right now. We need to make sure that not only the American people, but also every Member of Congress, really understand what our choices are. Because it's very, very easy to stand up and say we're going to cut spending by \$100 billion in the Federal Government when you're not willing to talk about what specifically you're willing to cut. And my colleague from Minnesota just said the President may not be specific. Well, the fact is, Republicans haven't been specific either.

We need this laid out for the American people. We need it laid out for us.

We have difficult choices. We need to make them. I think the President is on the right track. We cannot cut back right now on medical research. We cannot cut back on the type of research that will create new industries, particularly in the energy field. We cannot cut back right now in education when the rest of the world is passing us by in terms of the achievement of their students. And we cannot cut back right now on investments in our infrastructure when much of it is crumbling around us.

So I look forward to the debate we're going to have over the next few months. It's an important debate. It's probably the most serious debate we've had in this country in decades, because we are at a crossroads. We can allow this country to become a secondary international power, or we can maintain our status as not just the world's largest economy, but the world's most ingenious economy, the world's most innovative country, and a society which cares about making life better for every American citizen.

CLEAN-ENERGY JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor this morning to talk about our excitement hearing the President tonight express that feeling of optimism, confidence and can-do spirit that has always epitomized America, and that is in the field of the development of our clean-energy job creation program.

I'm excited about it because, as we're coming out of this very deep recession, many of us believe that one of the brightest spots on our economic horizon is our ability to develop hundreds of thousands of new jobs in this country so that America can fulfill its destiny of leading the world in clean-energy development.

We believe it is our destiny to do that because we have always done that throughout America's history, leading the world in aeronautics, leading the world in software, leading the world in aerospace; and now we have a great opportunity to lead the world in the development of clean energy. And when we do that, we do believe that we will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. And I look forward to the President's ideas on how to do that.

But I want to talk about where we are right now in our ability to do that. I remember I came to the floor 2 or 3 years ago and talked about the prospects of creating jobs in America in the creation of an electrified transportation system and our ability to electrify our cars. And when I did that, I remember I was criticized by some in this Chamber thinking, well, that was sort of a pipe dream, couldn't happen, that was Buck Rogers-kind of stuff that really wouldn't allow us to create jobs in this field.